

1           1.       In a system including a data server and a client that is associated with a web  
2 browser, wherein the client accesses data stored on the data server and displays such data  
3 using the web browser, a method for transforming the accessed data into a format for  
4 viewing using the web browser, the method comprising:

5           an act of the client accessing a view descriptor, the view descriptor identifying  
6 stored data and including formatting parameters on how the identified stored data should  
7 be arranged when viewed;

8           an act of the client processing the view descriptor using a generic view class to  
9 generate a specific view class;

10          an act of the client accessing the stored data that was identified by the view  
11 descriptor; and

12          an act of the client formatting the accessed data for viewing in accordance with the  
13 formatting parameters.

14  
15          2.       The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client accessing a  
16 view descriptor comprises the following:

17          an act of the client accessing a view descriptor that includes parameters on how the  
18 identified stored data should be arranged when viewed on the web browser.

19  
20          3.       The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client accessing a  
21 view descriptor comprises the following:

22          an act of the client accessing a view descriptor that includes Extensible Markup  
23 Language tags.

1 4. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client accessing a  
2 view descriptor comprises the following:

3 an act of the client downloading the view descriptor.  
4

5 5. The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the act of downloading the  
6 view descriptor comprises the following:

7 an act of the client downloading the view descriptor over a dial-up connection.  
8

9 6. The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the act of the downloading the  
10 view descriptor comprises the following:

11 an act of the client downloading the view descriptor over a permanent network  
12 connection.  
13

14 7. The method as recited in Claim 4, wherein the act of downloading the view  
15 descriptor comprises the following:

16 an act of the client downloading the view descriptor over the Internet.  
17

18 8. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client accessing a  
19 view descriptor comprises the following:

20 an act of the client accessing a locally stored view descriptor through an API to an  
21 operating system running on the client.  
22  
23  
24

1           9.     The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client processing  
2 the view descriptor comprises the following:

3           an act of the client processing the view descriptor and a generic view class  
4 associated with the view descriptor in order to generate a specific view class for the stored  
5 data.

6  
7           10.    The method as recited in Claim 9, wherein an act of the client processing  
8 the view descriptor and a generic view class associated with the view descriptor comprises  
9 the following:

10           an act of the client processing the view descriptor and a generic view class  
11 associated with the view descriptor, the view descriptor including Extensible Style  
12 Language tags, in order to generate a specific view class for the stored data.

13  
14           11.    The method as recited in Claim 9, wherein the act of the client processing a  
15 view descriptor and a generic view class associated with the view descriptor comprises the  
16 following:

17           an act of the client generating a specific view class.

18  
19           12.    The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client processing  
20 the view descriptor comprises the following:

21           an act of the client processing the view descriptor to generate a query, which may  
22 be submitted to the data server.

1           13.     The method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the act of the client processing  
2 the view descriptor to generate a query comprises the following:

3                 an act of the view control processing the view descriptor to generate an SQL query,  
4 which may be submitted to the data server.

6           14.     The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client accessing the  
7 stored data comprises the following:

8                 an act of the client submitting a query to the data server.

10          15.     The method as recited in Claim 14, wherein the act of the client submitting  
11 a query to the data server comprises the following:

12                 an act of the client submitting a SQL query to the data server.

14          16.     The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client accessing the  
15 stored data comprises the following:

16                 an act of the client downloading the stored data from the data server.

18          17.     The method as recited in Claim 16, wherein the act of the client  
19 downloading the stored data from the data server comprises the following:

20                 an act of the client receiving stored data, which includes Extensible Markup  
21 Language tags, from the server.

23          18.     The method as recited in Claim 16, wherein the act of the client  
24 downloading the stored data from the data server comprises the following:

1 an act of the client receiving stored data, which includes Hypertext Markup  
2 Language tags, from the server.

3  
4 19. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client accessing the  
5 stored data comprises the following:

6 an act of the client accessing locally stored data through an API to an operating  
7 system running on the client.

8  
9 20. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client formatting  
10 the accessed data for viewing comprises the following:

11 an act of the client formatting the accessed data for viewing in Internet Explorer.

12  
13 21. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client formatting  
14 the accessed data for viewing in accordance with the formatting parameters comprises the  
15 following:

16 an act of the client processing the specific view class to format the data.

17  
18 22. The method as recited in Claim 21, wherein the act of the client processing  
19 the specific view class comprises the following:

20 an act of the client processing Extensible Markup Language tags in the specific  
21 view class .

22  
23 23. The method as recited in Claim 21, wherein the act of the client processing  
24 the specific view class comprises the following:

1 an act of the view control processing Extensible Style Language tags in the specific  
2 view class .

3  
4 24. The method as recited in Claim 21, wherein the act of the client processing  
5 the specific view class comprises the following:

6 an act of the client processing Extensible Markup Language tags and Extensible  
7 Style Language tags in the specific view class.

8  
9 25. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the act of the client formatting  
10 the accessed data for viewing comprises the following:

11 an act of the client formatting the accessed data into data that includes Hypertext  
12 Markup Language tags.

13  
14 26. The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising an act of the client  
15 outputting the formatted data.

16  
17 27. The method as recited in Claim 26, wherein the act of the client outputting  
18 the data comprises the following:

19 an act of the client displaying the data to a web browser.

20  
21 28. The method as recited in Claim 26, wherein the act of the client outputting  
22 the data comprises the following:

23 an act of the client outputting the data in Hypertext Markup Language.

1           29.     In a system including a data server and a client that is associated with a web  
2 browser, wherein the client accesses data stored on the data server and displayed such data  
3 using the web browser, a method for transforming the accessed data into a format for  
4 viewing using a web browser, the method comprising:

5           an act of the client accessing a view descriptor, the view descriptor identifying  
6 stored data and includes parameters on how the identified stored data should be arranged  
7 when viewed; and

8           a step for converting the identified stored data for viewing so as to allow easy  
9 viewing of data stored in different formats.

10  
11           30.     The method as recited in claim 29, wherein the step for converting the  
12 identified stored data for viewing comprises the following:

13           an act of converting the identified stored data into displayable data that includes  
14 Hypertext Markup Language tags.

15  
16           31.     The method as recited in claim 29, wherein the step for converting the  
17 identified stored data for viewing comprises the following:

18           an act of converting the identified stored data into a format that is displayable on a  
19 web browser.  
20

1           32.     A computer program product for implementing, in a system including a data  
2 server and a client that is associated with a web browser, wherein the client accesses some  
3 the data stored on the data server and displays such data using the web browser, a method  
4 for transforming the accessed data into a format for viewing using a web browser, the  
5 computer program product comprising:

6                     a computer-readable medium carrying computer-readable instructions, that  
7 when executed at the client, cause the client to perform the following:

8                             an act of accessing a view descriptor, the view descriptor identifying  
9 stored data and including formatting parameters on how the identified  
10 stored data should be arranged when viewed;

11                            an act of processing the view descriptor;

12                            an act of the accessing the stored data that was identified by the  
13 view descriptor; and

14                            an act of formatting the accessed data for viewing in accordance  
15 with the parameters;  
16

17           33.     The computer program product as recited in Claim 32, wherein the  
18 computer-readable medium is a physical storage device.  
19

20           34.     The computer program product as recited in claim 32, wherein the  
21 computer-readable instructions that cause the client to perform the act of formatting the  
22 accessed data for viewing in accordance with the formatting parameters comprise  
23 computer-readable instructions that cause the client to perform the following when  
24 executed at the client:



1 an act of converting the identified stored data into displayable content that includes  
2 Hypertext Markup Language tags.

3  
4 35. The computer program product as recited in claim 32, wherein the  
5 computer-readable instructions that cause the client to perform the act of formatting the  
6 accessed data for viewing in accordance with the formatting parameters comprise  
7 computer-readable instructions that cause the client to perform the following when  
8 executed at the client:

9 an act of converting the identified stored data into a format that is displayable on a  
10 web browser.